



**Homeland
Security**

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

27 April 2012

Top Stories

- An international operation April 26 shut down dozens of Web sites, including many in the United States, which offered for sale information from about 2.5 million credit cards as well as other private data. – *BBC News* (See item [13](#))
- A report found the Florida Highway Patrol lieutenant who ordered the reopening of a fog- and smoke-shrouded interstate shortly before a series of crashes killed 11 people was unaware of the agency's procedures. The lieutenant also had no formal training in opening and reopening roads. – *Associated Press* (See item [17](#))
- Cyberattacks on the U.S. federal government's IT systems skyrocketed 680 percent in 5 years, an official from the Government Accountability Office testified at a Congressional hearing. – *Infosecurity* (See item [39](#))
- Researchers found that equipment using RuggedCom's industrial networking gear has a password that is easy to crack, which can give attackers the means to sabotage myriad industrial operations. The researchers said that for years, the firm did not warn the power facilities, military facilities, and municipal traffic departments that use its technology about the flaw. – *Ars Technica* (See item [49](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 26, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National; International) **Safe fracking require distance from sensitive rock strata.** The chances of rogue fractures due to shale gas fracking operations extending beyond 0.6 kilometers from the injection source is a fraction of 1 percent, according to new research led by Durham University, Homeland Security NewsWire reported April 26. The analysis is based on data from thousands of fracking operations in the United States and natural rock fractures in Europe and Africa. It is believed to be the first analysis of its type and could be used across the world as a starting point for setting a minimum distance between the depth of fracking and shallower aquifers used for drinking water. The new study, published in the journal *Marine and Petroleum Geology*, shows the probabilities of "rogue" fractures, induced in fracking operations for shale gas extraction, extending beyond 0.6 kilometers from the injection source are exceptionally low. The probability of fractures extending beyond 350 meters was found to be 1 percent. During fracking operations, fractures are created by drilling and injecting fluid into the rock strata underground to increase oil and gas production from fine-grained, low permeability rocks, such as shale. These stimulated fractures can significantly increase the rate of production of oil and gas from such rocks. Of the thousands artificially induced, none were found to exceed 600 meters, with the vast majority being much less than 250 meters in vertical extent.
Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120426-safe-fracking-requires-distance-from-sensitive-rock-strata>

2. *April 25, Charleston State Journal* – (West Virginia) **MSHA: 10 mining deaths in first quarter of 2012.** The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) recorded 10 mining deaths, 6 in coal mines, in the first quarter of 2012, the Charleston State

Journal reported April 25. Coal mine deaths occurred in the following categories: exploding vessels under pressure, drowning, handling materials, rib fall, machinery, and electrical. The MSHA noted an "uncharacteristic trend" of five of the fatalities occurring in five consecutive weekends. Three involved mine supervisors. The MSHA issued an accident prevention alert to the mining industry after the fourth consecutive death, but the fifth occurred after the notice had been issued. According to the MSHA release, the federal regulators have taken "a number of actions" to identify particular mines with health and safety problems.

Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story/17745547/msha-10-mining-deaths-in-first-quarter-of-2012>

3. ***April 24, Associated Press* – (California) **San Bruno to consider tearing out deadly gas pipe.** Officials in San Bruno, California, are considering ordering sections of the pipeline that caused a deadly explosion in 2010 to be ripped out of the neighborhood it set aflame. Residents have been pushing for the gas transmission line to be removed since it ruptured September 9, 2010. The blast and ensuing inferno killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes. Until recently, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. had said the company planned to plug its pipeline with concrete. The pipeline has not been in service since the explosion. City workers have recommended tearing out a portion of the pipeline but leaving in other sections and filling them with concrete.**

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/04/24/2812366/san-bruno-to-consider-tearing.html>

For another story, see item [49](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. ***April 25, Bakersfield Californian* – (California) **Fines totaling \$32,000 proposed in pesticide drift incident.** Kern County in California will issue fines totaling \$32,000 in connection with a late March incident where pesticide drift from a crop dusting plane hit a school bus carrying 29 students. The fines were proposed April 25 by the county agricultural commissioner against Inland Crop Dusters, \$30,000, and the pilot, \$2,000. The fines are for three violations, including applying the pesticide Lorsban Advanced in conflict with its labeling, according to a notice of proposed action. The notice indicated officials took previous violations by Inland and the pilot into consideration in determining the fine. Inland's owner said he will request a hearing to contest the fines. Inland has received 7 citations for violations since 1999 and had its license suspended for 30 days in 1997. The March 29 incident occurred when a crop duster dropped a load of pesticide that drifted over a Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District bus. About 15 students complained of ailments, and all but one was treated on school grounds.**

Source: <http://www.bakersfield.com/news/business/economy/x768326097/Fines-totaling-32-000-proposed-in-pesticide-drift-incident>

5. ***April 25, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **TCEQ alleges serious violations at Waxahachie chemical plant.** Texas regulators April 25 handed down a list of alleged**

violations against the Magnablend chemical blending plant in Waxahachie that caught fire and burned to the ground in October 2011. The plant was cited with four major violations from the incident, which caused pollutants and toxins to pour into the air and onto the ground. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determined Magnablend caused a traffic hazard during the fire, failed to submit the required emissions report, exceeded emissions limitations, and created a hazardous nuisance. State officials also found fault with operations inside the plant, saying "â€œ conditions at Magnablend which led to the fire and resulting emissions may have been prevented with proper engineering design, maintenance, and education." In March, the labor department released another list of major violations in connection with the fire, citing serious safety conditions inside the plant, including poor ventilation and failure to properly train employees.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/TCEQ-alleges-serious-violations-against-Waxahachie-chemical-plant-148971255.html>

6. *April 25, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Oregon; National; International) **EPA ensures Columbia Sportswear Company properly labels pesticide-treated clothing for domestic sale.** Columbia Sportswear Company, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, sold and distributed mislabeled pesticide-treated clothing in violation of federal pesticide rules, according to a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in an April 25 press release. The agency found the clothing labels lacked the required EPA pesticide registration number, a proper ingredient statement, a proper storage and disposal statement, and were missing the statement, "It is a violation of Federal Law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." EPA immediately issued a Stop Sale Order on the products until they could be properly labeled by the company, which fully cooperated. Columbia will pay a fine of \$22,880. The EPA first learned about the misbranded products by monitoring pesticide imports and finding that one of the firm's shipments coming into the United States had been denied entry at a foreign port.
Source:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/c09e9cbc5a32e852852579eb0064e7cb?OpenDocument>

7. *April 25, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Oregon) **EPA settles with BNSF Railway Company for improperly handling contaminated soil in north Portland.** The BNSF Railway Company settled with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for mishandling and transportation of contaminated soil from a construction project near the McCormick & Baxter Superfund site on the Willamette River near Portland, Oregon, according to an April 25 EPA press release. BNSF will pay a \$37,500 penalty, although it did not admit to the allegations. Documents filed with the action show BNSF removed at least 36 cubic yards of soil containing pentachlorophenol, a listed hazardous waste. The EPA alleges BNSF failed to: properly characterize the excavated waste; lawfully store and manage it on site; and properly transport it from the site to a disposal facility equipped and permitted to handle such waste. Each failure violated hazardous waste law. Pentachlorophenol, a manufactured chemical, was used in wood treating that took place while the McCormick & Baxter facility operated. It is a restricted use pesticide that was used for decades as a wood

preservative for utility poles, railroad ties, and wharf pilings. Exposure to high levels of the chemical has been shown to cause liver damage, harm the immune system, and have damaging reproductive and developmental effects. The EPA has also identified pentachlorophenol as a probable human carcinogen.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/d9e1cf69a6c83356852579eb007d042a!OpenDocument>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *April 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Damaged German resin plant will be out of commission for at least 6 months.** The owner of a German factory that makes a key resin used in auto parts said April 26 the plant will be out of commission until at least October. The Evonik Industries AG plant was badly damaged in a March 31 explosion and fire, setting off a mad scramble by global automakers to find substitute materials. A shortage of the resin is threatening to cut global car and truck production. The plant in western Germany makes at least a quarter of the world's PA-12, a nylon resin used in fuel and brake lines and hundreds of other auto parts. The plant also makes 70 percent of the global supply of CDT, a key ingredient of PA-12 that is used by other companies that make PA-12.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/damaged-german-resin-plant-will-be-out-of-commission-for-at-least-6-months/2012/04/26/gIQAT3nwiT_story.html

9. *April 25, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Ohio) **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA cites Wrayco Industries in Stow, Ohio, for 14 health and safety violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), April 25 cited Wrayco Industries Inc. in Stow, Ohio, with 14 serious safety and health violations. The OSHA initiated an inspection in response to a complaint alleging numerous safety violations. Eleven serious safety violations included failing to: develop machine-specific lockout/tagout procedures to control hazardous energy; train employees to use portable fire extinguishers; adequately guard equipment; use electrical equipment according to labels and listings; and install stair railings. Additionally, three serious health violations involved failing to implement a hearing conservation program, a written respiratory protection program, and a written hazard communication program.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22248

10. *April 25, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Texas) **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA cites San Antonio-based AA Foundries for willful, multiple serious safety and health violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), April 25 cited AA Foundries Inc. with 1 willful and 20 serious violations for exposing employees to excessive noise levels, lead, and copper at the company's work site in San Antonio. An investigation that began October 24, 2011, as part of OSHA's Primary Metals National Emphasis Program, found that employees were exposed to noise levels surpassing 85 decibels, as well as excessive airborne levels of lead and copper, while conducting operations such as pouring molds and grinding on metal cast.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22245

11. *April 23, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* – (Maryland; Pennsylvania) **Baltimore warehouse owners plead guilty in scheme to steal \$1 million of nickel imported into the port of Baltimore.** Two Baltimore warehouse owners pleaded guilty to conspiring to transport stolen nickel briquettes stored next to their warehouse, which had been imported through the Port of Baltimore, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to their plea agreements, the men opened Bear Creek Warehouse Company in 2006. Their primary customer was an international mining company that shipped cargo containers of nickel to the Port of Baltimore from mines outside the United States, then stored the nickel in the Bear Creek Warehouse. Beginning in 2006, the men began removing the mining company's nickel from the warehouse, setting it aside to sell later. In June 2006, one man approached a co-conspirator to sell the nickel in Pittsburgh. The co-conspirator contacted the owner of a Pittsburgh scrap metal company who agreed to buy the nickel. From 2006 through 2011, the warehouse owner sold the co-conspirator 80,000 pounds of nickel worth about \$1 million.

Source: <http://m.ice.gov/news/releases/1204/120423baltimore.htm?f=m>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *April 24, Associated Press* – (Utah; International) **Contractor to pay \$36.9M for defective flares.** Defense contractor ATK Launch Systems Inc. agreed to pay \$36.9 million in cash and services to settle a whistleblower's complaint alleging the Utah-based company sold the military dangerous and defective illumination flares, the U.S. Justice Department announced April 23. ATK's nighttime combat flares were supposed to withstand a 10-foot drop test without exploding or igniting, the agency said. The company must fix 76,000 flares remaining in the government's inventory as part of the

settlement. The flares were made in Utah and sold to the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army from 2000 to 2006, officials said. Phillips & Cohen LLP filed a whistleblower lawsuit in Salt Lake City on behalf of ATK flare program manager, triggering the federal investigation. The complaint dates back 10 years when the flares were made by a predecessor company, Thiokol Chemical Co., ATK said. Thiokol made the flares at Promontory, an industrial site in northern Utah.

Source: <http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/04/ap-contractor-pay-36m-defective-flares-042412/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *April 26, BBC News* – (National; International) **Credit card 'info for sale' websites closed in global raids.** Dozens of Web sites offering credit card details and other private information for sale have been taken down in a global police operation, BBC News reported April 26. Britain's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) said the raids in Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States were the culmination of 2 years of work. Two Britons and a man from Macedonia were arrested, with 36 sites shut down. Some of the Web sites have been under observation for 2 years. During that period the details of about 2.5 million credit cards were recovered — preventing fraud, according to industry calculations, of about \$809 million. The head of SOCA's cyber crime unit said criminals were selling personal data on an "industrial" scale. He said traditional "bedroom" hackers were being recruited by criminal gangs to write the malware or "phishing" software that steals personal data. Other information technology experts are used to write the code that enables the Web sites to cope, automatically, with selling the huge amounts of data. Joint operations April 26 in Australia, the United States, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Romania, and Macedonia led to the Web sites being closed down.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17851257>

14. *April 25, Associated Press* – (Florida) **FBI: South Florida bank robberies on rise.** The FBI said bank robberies are on the rise in south Florida in fiscal year (FY) 2012 and may surpass the totals for each of the past 2 years, the Associated Press reported April 25. The FBI's Miami Field Office said there were 49 bank heists between October 1, 2011 and the end of March in Florida counties stretching from Martin to Monroe. Those numbers are up 25 percent compared with the same time frame in FY 2011. If the trend holds, south Florida could see 100 bank stickups in FY 2012. That compares with 75 in FY 2011 and 87 in FY 2010. FBI agents said most robberies are non-violent and do not involve the display of a weapon. About half of the FY 2012 bank robberies in south Florida have been solved.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-04/D9UC1ENG0.htm>

15. *April 25, Reuters* – (National; International) **Former Morgan Stanley star in China pleads guilty.** A former Morgan Stanley executive has pleaded guilty to conspiring to

evade internal controls required by a U.S. anti-bribery law, in a case that underlines the fall of a once high-flying dealmaker for the firm in China. The executive, who was a managing director in Morgan Stanley's real estate investment and fund advisory business, also settled related charges with securities regulators April 25, and agreed to roughly \$3.7 million in sanctions and a permanent bar from the industry. The defendant secretly arranged to have millions paid to himself and a Chinese official and disguised the payments as finder's fees charged to Morgan Stanley, regulators said. Such payments violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars bribes to officials of foreign governments, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said. Morgan Stanley, which cooperated in the government's investigation, was not charged. The former executive had a personal friendship with the former chairman of a Chinese state-owned entity, Yongye Enterprise (Group) Co., which had influence over the success of Morgan Stanley's real estate business in Shanghai, the SEC said. He secretly arranged for both of them to acquire a valuable Shanghai real estate interest from a Morgan Stanley fund, it said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/25/us-sec-morgan-stanley-idUSBRE83O1DY20120425>

16. *April 24, Associated Press* – (California) **2 dozen arrested at Wells Fargo meeting, protest.** Authorities have arrested about two dozen people who demonstrated inside and outside Wells Fargo's annual shareholders meeting April 24 in San Francisco. A San Francisco police sergeant said police arrested 20 protesters. At least 14 of them were inside the meeting in the city's financial district. Six others were arrested for trespassing. He said the San Francisco Sheriff's Department arrested another four people. The bank protest drew several hundred protesters criticizing the San Francisco-based company for pursuing home foreclosures, predatory lending, not paying enough taxes, and investing in private prison companies. Dozens of officers were stationed around the Merchant's Exchange Building in the city's financial district ahead of the 1 p.m. meeting. Bank stockholders were asked to show certificates or other proof of ownership before being corralled past gates erected in front of the doors.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-04/D9UBIU9O0.htm>

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Transportation Sector

17. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Report: Fla. Highway Patrol erred in opening smoke-shrouded I-75 before crashes that killed 11.** A Florida Highway Patrol lieutenant who ordered the reopening of a fog- and smoke-shrouded interstate highway shortly before a series of crashes killed 11 people was unaware of the agency's procedures and had no formal training in opening and reopening roads, a state report said April 26. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement report concluded troopers made errors but found no criminal violations. A highway patrol sergeant expressed concerns about reopening Interstate 75 in north Florida in January, after heavy smoke from a wildfire had forced its closure. But a lieutenant gave the order because he was

worried keeping the highway closed also would be dangerous. At least a dozen cars, pickup trucks, and a van, six semi-trailer trucks, and a motorhome collided in six separate fatal crashes in north Florida near Gainesville. Some vehicles burst into flames, making it difficult to identify the victims. Smoke from a wildfire mixed with fog blanketed the highway where it cut through Paynes Prairie State Park.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fla-highway-patrol-set-to-release-report-on-fog--smoke-shrouded-i-75-crash-that-killed-11/2012/04/26/gIQAsvmXiT_story.html

18. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Log truck driver cited by FHP in fatal I-95 crash.** The driver of a tractor-trailer involved in a fatal pileup on Interstate 95 in Florida was cited for careless driving by the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Associated Press reported April 26. An FHP spokeswoman said the driver was hauling timber on northbound I-95 early the morning of December 29, 2011. She said he lost control of his vehicle and a load of logs was dumped onto the highway near Port Orange. The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported a car hit the logs and overturned. It was followed by a mail truck and a tractor-trailer filled with pesticide. Authorities said the chemical truck burst into flames and its driver was killed. Five others were injured. The fire caused northbound I-95 to close for more than 12 hours as crews repaired the road.
Source: <http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/state/story/Log-truck-driver-cited-by-FHP-in-fatal-I-95-crash/E4vehIn0Kky9Wkbn7y6pfA.cspx>
19. *April 24, Associated Press* – (New York) **NTSB blames faulty valve for 2010 NYC ferry crash.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said a faulty valve caused a Staten Island ferry accident that injured several people and caused minor damage in New York. The board met April 24 to discuss the May 8, 2010, accident. The vessel, the Andrew J. Barberi, slammed into a pier when the pilot could not get the ferry to slow down. NTSB investigators determined one of the ferry's propellers was stuck because of a jammed valve.
Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/17673655/ntsb-blames-faulty-valve-for-2010-nyc-ferry-crash>
20. *April 23, Hannibal Courier-Post* – (Missouri) **Stolen railroad property recovered in Pike County.** Three Missouri teenagers were charged with stealing for allegedly taking Kansas City Southern Railroad property, the Hannibal Courier-Post reported April 23. According to a Pike County sheriff, his department received a tip April 16 regarding the theft of railroad iron from the Bowling Green area. Deputies, working in conjunction with railroad authorities, discovered stolen metal at a local metal recycling facility. A Pike County prosecuting attorney charged all three suspects with the Class C felony of stealing.
Source: <http://www.hannibal.net/newsnow/x1780488886/Stolen-railroad-property-recovered-in-Pike-County>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *April 26, Fox News; Associated Press* – (Florida) **Mail carrier robbed at gunpoint in Tampa, may have been seeking tax return checks.** The U.S. Postal Service has offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of two people who robbed a mail carrier at gunpoint April 25 in Tampa, Florida. Police said a man told the mail carrier to drive to another location. When they arrived, the suspect asked him where the checks were. Authorities believe the robbers were looking for federal income tax returns. The mail carrier was sorting mail in his truck when police said he felt a gun at his side. The Tampa Tribune reported the mail carrier told the suspect the checks might be in a tray. The suspect dumped the contents into a backpack and fled. He was joined at that point by a second man.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/04/26/mail-carrier-robbed-at-gunpoint-in-tampa-may-have-been-seeking-tax-return/>
22. *April 25, Rock Hill Herald* – (South Carolina) **York man reports second mailbox explosion.** A York County, South Carolina man told police someone blew up his mailbox for the second time, the Rock Hill Herald reported April 25. The man heard a loud noise just before midnight April 20, according to a York County Sheriff's Office report. When he looked outside, he saw flames. About a month ago, the man told deputies someone had blown up his plastic mailbox, though he had not reported it, the report states. His new mailbox was made of metal. Deputies looked inside the mailbox, which was scorched in several spots, the report said. There were pieces of brown paper inside and outside the mailbox, one of which appeared to be a fireworks mortar shell. The explosion caused pine needles on the lawn across the street to catch fire, but the man and neighbors put it out, the report stated.
Source: <http://www.heraldonline.com/2012/04/25/3922944/york-man-reports-second-mailbox.html>
23. *April 23, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota; National) **Special delivery May 6 in Twin Cities will test terror attack plan.** Nearly 40,000 Minnesota residents will go to their mailboxes May 6 to find an unusual delivery: an empty pill bottle representing a powerful antibiotic that would be delivered in the event of a bioterrorism attack. The exercise united the Minnesota Department of Health with the U.S. Postal Service. More than 300 mail carriers will participate in the test, fanning out across 4 neighborhoods in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley. They plan to reach 37,000 households in 4 ZIP codes. The overall goal would be to deliver preventive doses of medication to most people within the first 48 hours of a bioterror attack. The exercise will spark an intense period of evaluation, when health officials will see if the idea could work under the most catastrophic public health conditions. The tactic has been tested in Boston, Philadelphia, and Seattle, but the Minnesota experiment will be its first full-scale test. A Postal Service spokesman said employee volunteers had to go through hours of safety training and preparation for the exercise — including being fitted with protective masks. Local law enforcement officials will escort postal workers, as they would be in a true emergency. The biggest logistical concern for the health department and Postal Service has been informing the participating communities.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/148607855.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *April 26, Market Watch* – (International) **Indonesia bans U.S. beef; Korea plans inspections.** Indonesia said April 26 it will ban imports of U.S. beef, while South Korea announced stepped-up inspections on its imports and some Korean retailers halted sales of the product, amid heightened concerns over food safety after a California dairy cow was found to be infected with mad cow disease. Indonesia's vice agriculture minister said a ban on U.S. beef would be imposed April 26 and remain in place until there are assurances U.S. cattle are free of the disease, according to Dow Jones Newswires. Indonesia will reportedly boost imports of beef from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada to make up for the U.S. shortfall. Meanwhile, South Korea's two largest supermarket chains April 25 halted sales of U.S. beef, although the ban in one of the chains was later lifted, according to the Associated Press. South Korea, along with other Asian countries, banned U.S. beef in 2003 following a prior outbreak of the disease, and rescinded the ban in 2008.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/story/indonesia-bans-us-beef-korea-plans-inspections-2012-04-26?reflink=MW_news_stmp

25. *April 26, Food Safety News* – (National) **Search underway for any more 'mad cows'.** The dead Hanford, California dairy cow with laboratory-confirmed bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is now the centerpiece of an investigation into whether there are any more mad cows in the vicinity, Food Safety News reported April 26. Dairymen in the Central Valley of California were told that state and federal officials are testing the BSE-infected animal's feeding herd, which could include some of its own offspring, and other cows in the area born about the same time. Baker Commodities, the Los Angeles-based company that owns the transfer rendering station at Hanford, also announced it was holding the diseased carcass in cold storage, as well as all other cows that arrived with it on the same truck. It was Baker's participation in a random sampling program that returned the BSE-infected brain tissue, 1 of 40,000 samples the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to take in 2012. The BSE-infected carcass was in quarantine where it will remain until state and federal officials order it destroyed. The exact location of the dairy farm where the diseased cow lived and died on or before April 18 has not been disclosed. The Hanford dairy cow did not show any "mad cow" signs — such as difficulty walking — before it died, making investigators especially interested in testing its calves and cohorts.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/04/search-begins-for-other-mad-cows-in-central-valley/>

26. *April 26, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **SD grain elevator fire prompts home evacuations.** A grain elevator fire in the eastern South Dakota city of Miller prompted officials to close off roads and evacuate about 15 homes. Authorities said the fire was reported at Miller Grain late April 25. Homes downwind from the scene were evacuated as a precaution about 2 hours after the fire sparked because of concerns about strong winds and possible toxic fumes from rodent control chemicals. The 40 to 50 residents were allowed to return home about 2 hours after they were evacuated. The

fire was under control 9 hours after it sparked, but an estimated 2 million pounds of sunflowers destined to become bird seed were still smoldering. The elevator was destroyed.

Source:

<http://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/usatoday/article/39140421?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

27. *April 25, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Allergy alert on milk products in Mrs. Weaver's pimento spread.** Reser's Fine Foods, Inc. of Beaverton, Oregon, is voluntarily recalling 653 cases of 7-ounce Mrs. Weaver's Pimento Spread that may have been packaged into containers marked Ham Salad, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported April 25. The Ham Salad label does not list milk ingredients on the label. The recalled spread was distributed in Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington between April 11 and April 17. The problem was discovered by a company representative during a store visit. The company advised the FDA of this voluntary recall.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm301824.htm>

28. *April 24, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Invasive beetle found in cumin shipment bound for McCormick.** A shipment of Indian cumin seed contaminated with the larvae of a dead Khapra beetle, an invasive insect, never made it to McCormick & Co.'s Hunt Valley facility and was to be sent back to India, the spice maker said April 24. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists discovered the larvae and other seed contaminants during a search of the shipment at the port of Baltimore April 17. The next day, the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the insect was a Khapra beetle, considered one of the most destructive pests, damaging grain, cereals, and stored food. The CBP said the Khapra beetle is the only insect the agency takes action against even when it is dead. The insect contaminates grain with body parts and hairs, which can cause gastrointestinal problems in adults and can especially sicken infants, according to a CBP statement. A McCormick spokesman said the discovery of an invasive insect like the Khapra beetle was not a "regular event."

Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-04-24/news/bs-bz-khapra-beetle-mccormick-20120424_1_invasive-beetle-khapra-beetle-invasive-insect

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Water Sector

29. *April 26, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Conway, NH, wastewater treatment plant to get \$12M upgrade.** A wastewater treatment plant in Conway, New Hampshire, currently operating at capacity will receive a \$12 million upgrade, the Associated Press reported April 26. The money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will fund the construction of a pipeline from a wastewater treatment plant in Conway to a bigger one in North Conway. The larger plant will take on more wastewater treatment responsibilities. The current plant is also using outdated

technology that does not treat the water that it discharges into the Saco River for nitrogen and phosphorous, putting the river's health at risk. The state decided to put a moratorium on building permits in Conway because of the problem.

Source:

<http://www.threpublic.com/view/story/7e21cfb4ccd243bc9270fb9c88093aa5/NH--Wastewater-Plant-Conway/>

30. *April 25, U-T San Diego* – (California; International) **Two million gallons of sewage hit TJ River — again.** San Diego County officials said a second sewage release in less than a month lasted for 12 hours April 24, spewing 2 million gallons of sewage into the Tijuana River. The leak was caused by a broken sewer line near Mexico's Rio Alamar which drains to the Tijuana River and eventually the Pacific Ocean. U-T San Diego reported it is unlikely the accident will result in major penalties because it happened in Mexico, where California officials have no authority. None of the sewage spilled April 24 was recovered before it poured into San Diego County, according to the county environmental health department. It said beaches that typically would be closed by such a spill already were off-limits to water contact because of sewage-tainted flows that entered the United States since mid-March. It was not clear when beach closures would be lifted; health officials said they will remain in place until water testing shows the water is safe for swimmers and surfers. Despite hundreds of millions of dollars spent on both sides of the border, contaminated runoff from neighborhoods in Tijuana regularly streams into San Diego County following rains — and that problem is exacerbated by equipment failures and other upsets. A boundary commission spokeswoman said the agency expected to get its pumps back online April 26.

Source: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/apr/25/two-million-gallons-sewage-hit-south-bay/>

31. *April 25, Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania Governor announces \$115 million investment in water infrastructure projects in 17 counties.** The governor of Pennsylvania announced April 25 the investment of \$115 million in 28 non-point source, drinking water, and wastewater projects in 17 counties. Of the \$115 million total, \$82 million is for low-interest loans and \$33 million is offered as grants. The awards range from a \$19 million loan/grant combination to upgrade a wastewater treatment system in McKean County to a \$266,000 grant that will construct nutrient-management facilities on a farm in Lancaster County, contributing to the improvement in the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The funding comes from a combination of state funds approved by voters, federal grants to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PENNVEST) from the Environmental Protection Agency, and recycled loan repayments from previous PENNVEST funding awards.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/governor-corbett-announces-115-million-investment-in-water-infrastructure-projects-in-17-counties-2012-04-25>

32. *April 25, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **DEP: PennDOT contractor drills into Tamaqua sewage line.** Officials said a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation contractor drilled into Tamaqua, Pennsylvania's main sewage line April 24, causing a sewage leak into the Little Schuylkill River at a rate of 1.5-million

gallons per day. State environmental officials said no fish were affected as of April 25 but more testing would be needed. Tamaqua officials said the borough's water supply was not affected. State department of environmental protection officials said a permanent fix was expected April 26.

Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/news/DEP-PennDOT-contractor-drills-into-Tamaqua-sewage-line/-/121458/11868094/-/xerfv/-/>

For more stories, see items **1** and **5**

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *April 26, White Plains Journal News* – (New York) **Four Winds Hospital worker stole \$40K, troopers say.** A veteran employee of Four Winds Hospital in Cross River, New York, stole more than \$40,000 from the facility over the past 4 years by falsifying records, state police said. She was arrested April 25 after an investigation by state police in Somers. As the director of patient accounts at the hospital that treats children and adults with mental-health issues, she falsified records many times, enabling her to steal the money. Police said she worked there for 26 years.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20120426/NEWS02/304260086/Four-Winds-Hospital-worker-stole-40K-troopers-say>

34. *April 26, Stockton Record* – (California) **Thieves grab records at medical clinic.** The Stockton Record reported April 26 that lab records containing data from at least 700 patients, including Social Security numbers and insurance information, were stolen during a break-in at the HealthCare Clinical Laboratory Patient Service Center in Stockton, California; the laboratory is affiliated with St. Joseph's Medical Center. At least one lab patient reported an unauthorized attempt to open up a credit card in her name after being notified by a St. Joseph's privacy official and placing a fraud alert on her credit report, according to a hospital spokeswoman. Lab workers discovered February 2 that a storeroom window had been broken and that two storage boxes containing laboratory requisition forms were missing. It was initially determined the forms were connected to services provided to patients between December 13, 2011, and January 5, as well as between January 17 and 31. March 16, lab officials discovered an additional box was missing. It contained forms that related to services provided between October 24, 2011, and November 18, 2011. In addition to notifying the police and government agencies, St. Joseph's believes it has contacted all affected patients by mail to recommend they take steps to protect their credit and offer them free enrollment in a credit-monitoring system.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120426/A_NEWS/204260319

35. *April 25, WCMH 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Caller: There's a bomb at door, armed man inside.** Columbus, Ohio police said bomb threats were called into three pharmacies around the same time April 24 before a robbery at only one of them. The caller said there was a bomb at the back door and an armed male inside the store. The caller told

the pharmacist to place several bottles of oxycodone and oxycontin in the drive-thru window. The caller then told the pharmacist to turn around, and a male in a dark jacket and gray, hooded sweatshirt scooped up the drugs and ran northbound in the alley. A police report listed the total value of the prescription drugs at \$6,981.25.

Source: <http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2012/apr/25/7/police-bomb-threats-called-pharmacy-robbed-ar-1012734/>

For another story, see item [23](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *April 26, Rock Hill Herald* – (South Carolina) **6 arrested after bomb threat at SC school.** Students at Carolina Forest High School in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, were back in class April 26 after a bomb threat forced an evacuation of the school April 25, according to a Horry County Schools spokeswoman. Horry County police said six people were arrested. Four were juveniles who were transported to the department of juvenile justice. Two are adults who were taken to a detention center, police said. Police said charges were pending and should be released April 26. April 25, a student found a note in a bathroom that said a bomb would go off. Horry County police's bomb squad and additional officers searched the building. Nothing was found. It was the 14th bomb threat in the district in 2012.

Source: <http://www.heraldonline.com/2012/04/26/3925300/6-arrested-after-bomb-threat-at.html>

37. *April 26, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Student's uncle arrested in connection with guns at Barton Elementary in Lake Worth.** The uncle of a student at Barton Elementary School in Lake Worth, Florida, was arrested following an incident where a young girl brought two loaded guns to the school in a backpack, the Palm Beach Post reported April 26. The man was charged in federal court with felony possession of a firearm. He allegedly put the two firearms in his niece's backpack while he was attempting to move them from one apartment to a new apartment, according to a criminal complaint. School officials learned about the guns when another student spotted them in the backpack and reported them to a teacher. The girl acknowledged she had the guns in her backpack and said they belonged to her uncle, the complaint stated. Palm Beach County School Police, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms investigated the incident.

Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/schools/students-uncle-arrested-in-connection-with-guns-at-2324955.html>

38. *April 25, Everett Herald* – (Washington) **Foul odor sickens 12 people at college.** Classes at Everest College in Everett, Washington, were canceled through the morning April 26, a day after 11 people were taken to the hospital after reporting dizziness, nausea, and a foul odor. Everest College is a private institution that shares a six-story building with several businesses, officials said. The students' dizzy spells were not considered life-threatening. The Everett campus announced on a Web site that

classes were canceled through 10 a.m. April 26. Students were advised to check back for an update. Up to 200 people were in the building April 25. Students quickly left after being told classes were canceled. Medics evaluated 12 people. There were 35 medics and firefighters on the scene. People in the building reported a mysterious odor, but fire officials could not pinpoint a cause. The building manager was told to have an industrial hygienist examine the structure.

Source: <http://heraldnet.com/article/20120425/NEWS01/704259820/-1/News>

39. *April 25, Infosecurity* – (National) **Cyberattacks on U.S. federal IT system soared 680% in five years.** Cyberattacks on the federal government's IT systems skyrocketed 680 percent in 5 years, an official from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) testified the week of April 23 on Capitol Hill. Federal agencies reported 42,887 cybersecurity incidents in 2011, compared with just 5,503 in 2006, the director of information issues for the GAO told a House Homeland Security Committee panel. The incidents reported by the agencies included unauthorized access to systems, improper use of computing resources, and the installation of malicious software, among others. The GAO official said the sources of the cyberthreats included criminal groups, hackers, terrorists, organizational insiders, and foreign nations. "The magnitude of the threat is compounded by the ever-increasing sophistication of cyber attack techniques, such as attacks that may combine multiple techniques. Using these techniques, threat actors may target individuals, businesses, critical infrastructures, or government organizations," he testified. The federal government's IT systems continue to suffer from "significant weaknesses" in information security controls, he said. Eighteen of 24 major federal agencies have reported inadequate information security controls for financial reporting for fiscal year 2011, and inspectors general at 22 of these agencies identified information security as a major management challenge for their agency, he told the House panel. "Reported attacks and unintentional incidents involving federal, private, and infrastructure systems demonstrate that the impact of a serious attack could be significant, including loss of personal or sensitive information, disruption or destruction of critical infrastructure, and damage to national and economic security," he warned.

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/25393/cyberattacks-on-us-federal-it-system-soared-680-in-five-years/>

40. *April 25, Hickory Daily Record* – (North Carolina) **Threatening note causes Catawba Valley Community College evacuation.** Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) evacuated its two Hickory, North Carolina campuses just before noon April 25 because of a perceived threat. That threat was later revealed to be a note. Students, faculty, and staff on the main and east campuses were notified of the evacuation by loudspeaker announcements and the in-house TV system, as well as college personnel spreading the word and emergency texts and e-mail, said the CVCC president. A committee and school officials decided it would be best to evacuate the campus and cancel day and evening classes for the main and east campuses April 25. Classes resumed April 26. A gunman was spotted on CVCC's east campus January 18, resulted in the east and main campuses being locked down for hours. The gunman was never caught.

Source: <http://www2.hickoryrecord.com/news/2012/apr/25/12/threatening-note-causes-cvcc-evacuation-ar-2205949/#>

41. *April 24, Softpedia* – (National) **UGNazi hackers launch DDOS attacks on CIA, DOJ sites to protest CISPA.** Hackers from the UGNazi group launched attacks on the sites of the CIA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) April 24 to show they do not agree with a new anti-piracy law, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA). While the site of the DOJ seemed to be restored, the one of the CIA was down for at least 8 hours. Starting the weekend of April 21, members of the UGNazi group were attacking sites that belong to the U.S. government and organizations they consider corrupt. Their first targets were the Web sites of New York City and the Government of the District of Columbia, which they considered to be “the heart” of the United States. Then they moved to NASDAQ, whose public facing Web site they kept down for a few hours. The State of Washington site was attacked April 21, being kept offline for more than 4 hours.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/UGNazi-Hackers-Launch-DDOS-Attack-on-CIA-DOJ-Site-to-Protest-CISPA-266033.shtml>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [12](#), and [49](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *April 26, Adrian Daily Telegram* – (Michigan) **911 service out in Britton area.** A fiber-optic telephone line in Britton, Michigan was damaged, causing a 9-1-1 outage for landlines in the Britton area, according to the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department. Cellphone users should not have problems calling 9-1-1. Neither a cause of the damage nor an estimated time of when repairs would be made was available April 26. In an emergency, people in the Britton area using a landline phone were instructed to call the dispatcher directly.

Source: <http://www.lenconnect.com/news/x787573609/911-service-out-in-Britton-area>

43. *April 25, KTEN 10 Ada* – (Texas) **First responders endure evening with no 911 service.** April 21, Texas' Grayson County Emergency Management officials said a phone fiber line was cut by presumably a local construction company near Whitesboro, and 9-1-1 went offline in Whitesboro, Sadler, and Gordonville. In response, fire and police departments increased their patrols during the inconvenience. Instead of calling, they found a different way to keep in touch by using text messages. Residents were instructed to go to the nearest fire or police station if they had an emergency. The phone cables were repaired by about 6 hours later.

Source: <http://www.kten.com/story/17762445/first-responders-endure-evening-with-no-phone-service>

For more stories, see items [17](#) and [23](#)

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Information Technology Sector

44. *April 26, H Security* – (International) **Security improvements in Opera 12 beta.** A beta of version 12 of the Opera Web browser was released with privacy and security-focused improvements. The browser now runs plugins out-of-process and includes optimizations for better SSL handling. Running plugins in their own process not only improves the smoothness and stability of the browser but also can limit the damage from some plug-in exploit. Privacy is enhanced with support for the "Do Not Track" (DNT) header, which is used to tell Web sites the browser user wishes to opt-out of online behavioral tracking. The DNT header is designed to help users retain their privacy when faced with online advertising networks that use cookies and other Web technologies to recognize them and serve them tailored advertising.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Security-improvements-in-Opera-12-beta-1559714.html>

45. *April 26, Help Net Security* – (International) **Hotmail remote password reset 0-day bug found, patched.** A critical security flaw affecting Microsoft's Hotmail was detected almost simultaneously by Vulnerability Lab researchers and a Saudi Arabian hacker and, until a temporary fix was made by Microsoft April 20, it was used by hackers to hijack users' Hotmail/Live account. "The vulnerability allows an attacker to reset the Hotmail/MSN password with attacker chosen values. Remote attackers can bypass the password recovery service to setup a new password and bypass in place protections (token based)," explained Vulnerability Lab's researchers.
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=12818&utm>

46. *April 26, Softpedia* – (International) **Expert accidentally finds how DoS attacks can be launched via Google.** A computer scientist working at New York University learned Google can be used to launch successful denial-of-service (DoS) attacks against sites with minimal effort. The researcher explained it started when he saw Amazon Web Services was charging him with 10 times the usual amount because of large amounts of outgoing traffic. After analyzing traffic logs, he was able to determine that every hour a total of 250 gigabytes of traffic was sent out because of Google's Feedfetcher, the mechanism that allows the search engine to grab RSS or Atom feeds when users add them to Reader or the main page. It appears Google does not want to store the information on its own servers so it uses Feedfetcher to retrieve it every time, thus generating large amounts of traffic. This enabled the expert to discover how a Google feature can be easily used to launch attacks against a site simply by gathering several big URLs from the target and putting them in a spreadsheet or a feed. If the feed is placed into a Google service or a spreadsheet and the image(url) command is used, a DoS attacks is initiated.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Expert-Accidentally-Finds-How-DOS-Attacks-Can-Be-Launched-Via-Google-266613.shtml>

47. *April 26, Computerworld* – (International) **Obstinate' Conficker worm infests millions of PCs years later.** April 25, Microsoft said the long-suppressed Conficker botnet is still actively infecting millions of new machines, giving Windows enterprise users a 2.5-year problem. Conficker infected or tried to infect 1.7 million Windows PCs

in the fourth quarter of 2011, 3 years after it first appeared. The 1.7 million was an uptick of 100,000 from the previous quarter, said Microsoft. The worm first appeared in the fall of 2008, exploiting a just-patched Windows vulnerability. It soon morphed into a more effective threat, adding new attack techniques, including one that relied on weaknesses in Windows XP's and Vista's AutoRun feature. By January 2009, some security firms estimated Conficker compromised millions of PCs. Concern about Conficker reached a crescendo when the media reported it would update itself April 1, 2009. Because of the size of the Conficker botnet — estimates ran as high as 12 million — and other mysteries, hype ran at fever pitch. In the end, Conficker's April 1 update passed quietly. However, the worm, although prevented from communicating with its makers, has not completely disappeared. According to Microsoft, detections of Conficker jumped 225 percent since 2009. The current size of the Conficker botnet — those PCs now infected — is approximately 7 million, Microsoft claimed.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9226619/_Obstinate_Conficker_worm_infests_millions_of_PCs_years_later

48. *April 26, IDG News Service* – (International) **Most of the Internet's top 200,000 HTTPS websites are insecure, group says.** Ninety percent of the Internet's top 200,000 HTTPS-enabled Web sites are vulnerable to known types of secure sockets layer (SSL) attack, according to a report released April 26 by the Trustworthy Internet Movement (TIM), a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving Internet security, privacy, and reliability problems. It is based on data from a new TIM project called SSL Pulse, which uses automated scanning technology developed by security vendor Qualys to analyze the strength of HTTPS implementations on Web sites in the top 1 million published by Web analytics firm Alexa. SSL Pulse checks what protocols are supported by HTTPS-enabled Web sites, the key length used for securing communications, and the strength of the supported ciphers. An algorithm is used to interpret scan results and assign a score between 0 and 100 to each HTTPS configuration. The score is then translated into a grade, with A being the highest (over 80 points). Half of the almost 200,000 Web sites in Alexa's top 1 million that support HTTPS received an A for configuration quality. The sites use a combination of modern protocols, strong ciphers, and long keys. Despite this, only 10 percent of the scanned Web sites were deemed truly secure. Seventy-five percent — around 148,000 — were found to be vulnerable to an attack known as BEAST, which can be used to decrypt authentication tokens and cookies from HTTPS requests.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9226623/_Most_of_the_Internet_39_s_top_20_0_000_HTTPS_websites_are_insecure_group_says

49. *April 25, Ars Technica* – (International) **Backdoor in mission-critical hardware threatens power, traffic-control systems.** Equipment running RuggedCom's Rugged Operating System networking gear has an undocumented account that cannot be modified and a password that is trivial to crack. According to researchers, for years the company did not warn the power utilities, military facilities, and municipal traffic departments using the industrial-strength gear the account can give attackers the means to sabotage operations that affect the safety of many people. The backdoor uses the

login ID of "factory" and a password recovered by plugging the media access control (MAC) address of the targeted device into a simple Perl script, according to a post published April 23 to the Full Disclosure security list. To make unauthorized access easy, paying customers of the Shodan computer search engine can find the IP numbers of more than 60 networks that use the vulnerable equipment. The first thing users who telnet into them see is its MAC address. Equipment running the Rugged Operating System act as the switches and hubs that connect programmable logic controllers to the computer networks used to send them commands. They may lie between the computer of a electric utility employee and the compact disk-sized controller that breaks a circuit when the employee clicks a button on their screen. To give the equipment added power, Rugged Operating System is fluent in the Modbus and DNP3 communications protocols used to natively administer industrial control and supervisory control and data acquisition systems. The U.S. Navy, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Chevron are just three of the customers who rely on the gear, according to RuggedCom's Web site.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/business/news/2012/04/backdoor-in-mission-critical-hardware-threatens-power-traffic-control-systems.ars?utm>

For more stories, see items [13](#), [39](#), [41](#), [50](#), and [51](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

50. *April 25, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Verizon working to fix outage in Norfolk.** Several hundred Verizon Communications Inc. customers in Norfolk, Virginia, lost telephone and Internet service after April 20, when a contractor for another company damaged underground cables. The contractor cut into two Verizon underground cables serving about 700 lines, a Verizon spokesman wrote in an e-mail. Verizon learned of the extent of the outage over the April 21 weekend, he wrote. Because some customers have more than one line into their homes or businesses, the number who lost service is likely less than 700, he wrote. The company hoped to replace the cable and restore service for all customers by April 26. The process is complicated because the conduit carrying the damaged cables had no room for additional lines, requiring repair workers to find an alternate path for the replacement cable, the spokesman wrote.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/verizon-working-fix-outage-norfolk>

51. *April 25, Whidbey Examiner* – (Washington) **Outage angers Whidbey Telecom customers.** Residents on Whidbey Island, Washington endured 5 days of electronic

frustration the week of April 23 as Whidbey Telecom suffered a complete breakdown of its e-mail service during an equipment upgrade. The problems began April 20 as technicians worked on making changes to the equipment that handles e-mail. Customers had been warned in advance that a temporary outage was possible. But throughout the weekend of April 21, customers reported not being able to send or receive e-mail. For residential customers, it was mostly an inconvenience. But for small businesses that rely on the locally owned telecommunications firm for e-mail service, the outage that dragged on into the beginning of the week of April 23 had begun to threaten their bottom line. By about 8:30 a.m. April 25, some customers confirmed that their e-mail service was up and running again.

Source:

<http://www.whidbeyexaminer.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=7622>

For more stories, see items [43](#) and [45](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

52. *April 26, KPRC 2 Houston* – (Texas) **2-Alarm fire destroys northwest Harris County apartments.** A two-alarm fire damaged or destroyed more than a dozen apartments in Houston April 26. A gas line ruptured during the fire and power was cut off to the complex, officials said. The fire started in the building's laundry room. Fire officials said four apartments were destroyed, four others had water and smoke damage, and eight units had smoke damage.

Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/2-Alarm-fire-destroys-northwest-Harris-County-apartments/-/1735978/11960298/-/wdw28nz/-/>

53. *April 24, Longmont Times-Call* – (Colorado) **Longmont churches targeted in burglaries.** Police were investigating seven burglaries of six churches since April 17 in Longmont, Colorado, the Longmont Times-Call reported April 24. Burglars have either forced entry into the churches or gotten in through unlocked doors to steal cash from the churches. Gift cards worth several thousand dollars were stolen from a locked closet inside a locked office at Longs Peak United Methodist Church. Gift cards and small amounts of cash were also stolen from other churches in the area.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/crime/ci_20469817/longmont-churches-targeted-burglaries

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

54. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Wildfire in Michigan's Huron National Forest burns 1,500 acres.** Authorities said a wildfire in Michigan's northern Lower

Peninsula burned at least 1,500 acres and forced the evacuation of about 50 homes. The fire burned near Mack Lake in Oscoda County's Mentor Township. The U.S. Forest Service said the fire was about 90 percent contained as of the morning of April 26. There were no reports of injuries or structures being burned. An American Red Cross shelter was set up in the nearby community of Mio. The fire is in the area of the Huron National Forest. The Oscoda County sheriff's department said the evacuated homes include some small subdivisions and most of them are seasonal homes.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20120426/NEWS06/120426011/Wildfire-in-Michigan-s-Huron-National-Forest-burns-1-500-acres>

55. *April 26, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Train catches fire in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.**

A train fire in Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley National Park kept three local fire departments busy from April 25 to April 26. According to the Brecksville fire chief, firefighters immediately began dragging hoses about 300 feet through the woods towards the train cars. He said one train car was fully involved in fire and a second one was beginning to catch fire. Firefighters were able to stop the fire from spreading to the second car. National Park rangers said people sometimes loiter in the area but they were not sure how the fire started. It was not known what the train cars were being used for or what was in them. There are no fire hydrants in the area so firefighters had to place mobile pools in the roadway and tank water to the scene. Brecksville was assisted by Richfield and Valley View fire departments for water tankers.

Source: http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/oh_cuyahoga/Train-caughts-fire-in-the-Cuyahoga-Valley-National-Park

56. *April 25, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Texas man must pay \$2.7M, serve probation for starting NM wildfire with used toilet paper.**

A man was ordered to pay \$2.7 million in restitution for burning used toilet paper that sparked a wildfire, scorching nearly 83 square miles of a national forest in New Mexico. The man also was sentenced April 24 to 5 years of probation and ordered to complete 200 hours of community service. In October 2011, he pleaded guilty under a plea agreement to a misdemeanor charge stemming from the April 2011 wildfire. Two other charges in an indictment were dismissed. The fire started when the man was with friends near a camp site, and he lit some used toilet paper on fire to keep from leaving behind litter. High winds sent sparks from the burning paper into nearby brush, and he and his friends were unable to control the fire in the area known as the Guadalupe Ranger District. The blaze eventually charred more than 53,000 acres in the Lincoln National Forest, through the Last Chance Canyon in Eddy County. The fire burned for several days and caused damage to four structures in the Sitting Bulls Falls Recreation area.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/texas-man-must-pay-27m-serve-probation-for-starting-nm-wildfire-with-used-toilet-paper/2012/04/25/gIQAZYBJhT_story.html

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Dams Sector

57. *April 26, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **Levee bolstered as Yakima County girds for high water.** An excavator dumped rock along a Naches River levee near Gleed, Washington, April 25 after high flows from the Yakima and Naches rivers damaged the structure. Both rivers were expected to remain above flood stage into the weekend and crest during the week of April 30. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hired a contractor to begin the repairs after Yakima County commissioners declared a flood-related state of emergency April 25. The declaration allows the Corps to begin making repairs. Record high temperatures prompted the snow melt and the resulting high water. The National Weather Service issued a flood warning for the Naches River April 23, a day after the valley set a new record high temperature for the day.
Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2012/04/25/levee-bolstered-as-yakima-county-girds-for-high-water>

58. *April 26, KAJ 18 Missoula* – (Montana) **Libby Dam flows reduced to help flooding worries.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reduced the outflow of water from the Libby Dam in northwest Montana from 16,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 14,000 cfs the week of April 23. Tributaries downstream from the dam were already swelling from snowmelt runoff. The National Weather Service office in Missoula issued a Flood Warning for the Fisher River in southern Lincoln County until further notice. The Fisher River was at flood stage, 7.5 feet, April 26, and minor flooding was reported in the area. The Flood Warning was extended for the Yaak River near Troy until further notice. As of April 26 the river was at 8.4 feet, above the flood stage of 8.0 feet.
Source: <http://www.kpax.com/news/libby-dam-flows-reduced-to-help-flooding-worries/>

59. *April 25, Cleveland Sun News* – (Ohio) **Berea's low-head dam removals begin.** Workers began removing boulders and fallen timber from one of the low-head dams in Baldwin Creek near Berea, Ohio, April 25. They were in the creek next to the city's water plant. Three dams will be removed in the Baldwin Creek area to allow better fish passage and enhance the in-stream habitat. All three dams are on city property. Partners in the low-head dam removal project include the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, the Rocky River Watershed, Cleveland Metroparks and the city. The project has been planned for about 2 years.
Source: http://www.cleveland.com/berea/index.ssf/2012/04/bereas_low-head_dam_removals_b.html

60. *April 25, Associated Press* – (Missouri; Illinois) **Army Corps stands by decision to breach Birds Point levee, one year later.** Nearly a year after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intentionally breached the Birds Point levee in southeast Missouri, Corps officials say the decision may have saved billions in damages. The Southeast Missourian reported farmers in the floodway are still reassessing costs. The Food and Agriculture Research Policy Institute estimated that crop losses alone amounted to \$85 million, and a broader economic impact exceeded \$156 million. The Corps had authority to intentionally breach the levee to relieve pressure from the flooding Mississippi River, in part to save nearby Cairo, Illinois. The breach May 2, 2011,

flooded 130,000 acres of Missouri farmland. The Corps said the decision prevented more than \$112 billion in damages along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
Source: http://articles.ky3.com/2012-04-25/birds-point-levee_31401316

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